

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 were pending.

Claim 13 is amended.

Claims 17-18 are cancelled.

Claims 1-16 and 19-31 are now pending.

Claim 13 is amended to depend from claim 1. No new matter is added.

Restriction Requirement

Applicants elect Group 1, claim 1 directed to *Rhodococcus rhodochrous* strain NCIMB 41164 or a mutant thereof.

As claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 1 and claims 17 and 18 are cancelled, all remaining claims ultimately depend from claim 1 and now relate to a group of inventions which require the microorganism *Rhodococcus rhodochrous* strain NCIMB 41164 or a mutant thereof as the same technical feature.

Thus if claim 1, is found allowable, all the other claims should be rejoined.

Applicants await prosecution on the merits. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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